AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 47. Canceled

48. (Currently Amended) A moving picture decoding apparatus, comprising:

a memory for storing a previously decoded image as reference image used for generating a prediction picture;

a prediction picture generation section, receiving indication information indicating one of a plurality of deformation methods and a motion parameter extracted from a bit stream, ~~said~~ the prediction picture generation section identifying one of the deformation methods based on the indication information, and generating the prediction picture using the reference image based on the identified deformation method, ~~and the deformation method indicated by the indication information,~~ the deformation method being applied to the reference image so as to ~~by transforming~~ transform a portion of the reference image ~~portion~~ geometrically ~~based on the deformation method~~; and

a decoding section for decoding a texture from the bit stream, and adding the texture to the prediction picture generated by the prediction picture generation section so as to obtain a decoded image.

49. (Previously Presented) The moving picture decoding apparatus of claim 48, wherein the plurality of deformation methods that are indicated by the indication information and used by the prediction picture generation section to generate the prediction picture include a parallel translation transform method, an affine transform method and a perspective transform method.

50. (Previously Presented) The moving picture decoding apparatus of claim 48, further comprising:

a plurality of memories for storing the reference image, each of the plurality of memories corresponding to at least one of the deformation methods,

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wherein the prediction picture generation section generates the prediction picture based on the reference image stored in a memory of the plurality of memories which corresponds to the deformation method indicated by the indication information.

51. (Currently Amended) A moving picture decoding method, comprising:

storing a previously decoded image as a reference image for generating a prediction picture;

receiving indication information indicating one of a plurality of deformation methods and a motion parameter extracted from a bit stream;

identifying one of the deformation methods based on the indication information;

generating the prediction picture using the reference image based on the identified deformation method, and the deformation method indicated by the indication information the deformation method being applied to the reference image by so as to transforming transform a portion of the reference image portion geometrically based on the deformation method; and

decoding a texture from the bit stream, and adding the texture to the prediction picture generated by said generating step so as to obtain a decoded image.

52. (Previously Presented) The moving picture decoding method of claim 51, wherein the plurality of deformation methods that are indicated by the indication information and used by the generating step to generate the prediction picture include a parallel translation transform method, an affine transform method and a perspective transform method.

53. (Previously Presented) The moving picture decoding method of claim 51, further comprising:

generating the prediction picture based on the reference image stored in a plurality of memories, each of the plurality of memories corresponding to at least one of the deformation methods.

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